

Application No.: 10/584,105  
Attorney Docket No.: 66090-005US0  
First Applicant's Name: Mansour Samadpour  
Application Filing Date: August 21, 2007  
Final Office Action Dated: June 17, 2011  
Date of Response: December 19, 2011  
Examiner: Kevin Joyner

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, submits the following amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of reducing or preventing transfer of microbial contamination to or from a surface being cut; comprising:
  - providing a surface to be cut;
  - providing a cutting implement;
  - coating at least one of the surface and the cutting instrument with a adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition, comprising:
    - from about 0.1 to about 25% (wt) of a gelling or thickening agent,
    - from about 0.1 to about 10% (wt) of an emulsifier or stabilizer,
    - from about 0.05 to about 10% (wt) of a surfactant, and
    - an antimicrobial agent; and
  - cutting through the surface with the cutting instrument, wherein at least part of the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition is transferred between the surface and the cutting instrument during cutting, and wherein transfer of microbial contamination to or from the surface is reduced or precluded.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adherent antimicrobial barrier composition further comprises from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), or about 1 to about 5% (wt), of one or more C1-10 alcohols.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gelling or thickening agent is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 4% (wt), from about 5 to about 15% (wt), and about 2.5% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of pectin, methylated pectin, gelatin, hydrosylated gelatin, agar, cornstarch, cross-linked starch, depolymerized starch, gelling vegetable protein product, sodium alginate, carrageenan, and combinations thereof.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the emulsifier or stabilizer is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 1% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of calcium lactate, lecithin, glycerol, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.05 to about 0.5% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, Tween 20, 40, 60, and 80, and combinations thereof.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is at least one of an acidic agent and a basic agent, present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 2% (wt), suitable to impart a pH of less than about 3, or greater than about 10, and is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid, acidified calcium sulfate, acidified sodium chlorite, peracetic acids, percarbonates, ammonium hydroxide, quaternary ammonium salts, cetylpyridinium chloride, polyphosphates, glycolic acid, sodium metasilicate, trisodium phosphate, and combinations thereof.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of proteases, lipases and phospholipases, alcohols, and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is heat.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to coating, heating the adherent antimicrobial barrier composition to a temperature equal to or greater than 80°C.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial barrier composition is provided as a formulation selected from the group consisting of semi-solids, gels, liquids, syrups, aerosolized formulations, foams, colloidal suspensions, and combinations thereof.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:

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coating, prior to cutting through a target surface, the target surface or a portion thereof with the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition to provide a sacrificial layer that is partially transferable between the target surface and a cutting implement during cutting; and cutting through the sacrificial layer on the target surface with a cutting implement, whereby a protective layer is provided to the cutting implement surface.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition comprises at least one agent selected from the group consisting of: from about 0.1 to about 25% (wt) of a gelling or thickening agent; from about 0.1 to about 10% (wt) of an emulsifier or stabilizer; from about 0.05 to about 10% (wt) of a surfactant; and an antimicrobial agent.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition further comprises from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), or about 1 to about 5% (wt), of one or more C1-10 alcohols.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the gelling or thickening agent is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 4% (wt), from about 5 to about 15% (wt), and about 2.5% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of pectin, methylated pectin, gelatin, hydrosylated gelatin, agar, cornstarch, cross-linked starch, depolymerized starch, gelling vegetable protein product, sodium alginate, carrageenan, and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the emulsifier or stabilizer is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 1% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of calcium lactate, lecithin, glycerol, and combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.05 to about 0.5% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, Tween 20, 40, 60, and 80, and combinations thereof.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial agent is at least one of an acidic agent and a basic agent, present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 2% (wt), suitable to impart a pH of less than about 3, or greater than about 10, and is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid, acidified calcium sulfate, acidified sodium chlorite, peracetic acids, percarbonates, ammonium hydroxide, quaternary ammonium salts, cetylpyridinium chloride, polyphosphates, glycolic acid, sodium metasilicate, trisodium phosphate, and combinations thereof.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of proteases, lipases and phospholipases, alcohols, and combinations thereof.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial agent is heat.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising, prior to coating, heating the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition to a temperature equal to or greater than 80°C.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition is provided as a formulation selected from the group consisting of semi-solids, gels, liquids, syrups, aerosolized formulations, foams, colloidal suspensions, and combinations thereof.

22. (Withdrawn; currently amended) An adherent sacrificial antimicrobial barrier composition, comprising:

from about 0.1 to about 25% (wt) of a gelling or thickening agent;  
from about 0.1 to about 10% (wt) of an emulsifier or stabilizer;  
from about 0.05 to about 10% (wt) of a surfactant; and  
an antimicrobial agent.

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23. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, further comprising from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), or about 1 to about 5% (wt), of one or more C1-10 alcohols.

24. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, wherein the gelling or thickening agent is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 4% (wt), from about 5 to about 15% (wt), and about 2.5% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of pectin, methylated pectin, gelatin, hydrosylated gelatin, agar, cornstarch, cross-linked starch, depolymerized starch, gelling vegetable protein product, sodium alginate, carrageenan, and combinations thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, wherein the emulsifier or stabilizer is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 1% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of calcium lactate, lecithin, glycerol, and combinations thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.05 to about 0.5% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 0.2% (wt), and is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, Tween 20, 40, 60, and 80, and combinations thereof.

27. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, wherein the antimicrobial agent is at least one of an acidic agent and a basic agent, present in an amount selected from the group consisting of from about 0.1 to about 15% (wt), from about 1 to about 5% (wt), and about 2% (wt), suitable to impart a pH of less than about 3, or greater than about 10, and is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid, acidified calcium sulfate, acidified sodium chlorite, peracetic acids, percarbonates, ammonium hydroxide, quaternary ammonium salts, cetylpyridinium chloride, polyphosphates, glycolic acid, sodium metasilicate, trisodium phosphate, and combinations thereof.

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28. (Withdrawn I) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, where the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of proteases, lipases and phospholipases, alcohols, and combinations thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, wherein the antimicrobial agent is heat.

30. (Withdrawn) The antimicrobial barrier composition of claim 22, provided as a formulation selected from the group consisting of semi-solids, gels, liquids, syrups, aerosolized formulations, foams, colloidal suspensions, and combinations thereof.

31. (Cancelled)